

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for treating a recording element comprising:
a carrier removal station adapted to remove a predetermined
percentage of carrier present in the recording element; and
a converting station positioned downstream from the carrier
removal station adapted to increase a durability characteristic of the recording
element.
2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least 50%
of the carrier present in the recording element is removed by the carrier removal
station.
3. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least 75%
of the carrier present in the recording element is removed by the carrier removal
station.
4. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least 90%
of the carrier present in the recording element is removed by the carrier removal
station.
5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier
removal station comprises a heating element .
6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier
removal station includes an infrared radiation element.
7. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier
removal station includes a forced air convection conduction element.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier removal station is positioned adjacent to the converting station.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier removal station is positioned spaced apart from the converting station.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a preheating station positioned between the carrier removal station and the converting station.

11. The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a controller electrically connected to at least one of the carrier removal station and the converting station, wherein an operating parameter of at least one of the carrier removal station and the converting station is adjustable.

12. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the operating parameter is adjustable by a user.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the operating parameter is adjustable by the controller based on criteria stored in the controller.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the operating parameter is the percentage of carrier to be removed from the recording element.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the converting station comprises a pair of rollers positioned to apply pressure to the recording element.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the converting station comprises a heat source.

17. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the converting station comprises a heat source.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus has a desktop footprint dimension.

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus has a desktop height dimension.

20. A method of treating a recording element comprising:
removing a predetermined percentage of carrier present in the recording element in a first station; and
increasing a durability characteristic of the recording element in a second station, wherein the second station is distinct from the first station.

21. The method according to Claim 20, wherein increasing the durability characteristic includes applying pressure to the recording element.

22. The method according to Claim 20, wherein increasing the durability characteristic includes applying heat to the recording element.

23. The method according to Claim 20, wherein removing the predetermined percentage of carrier includes applying heat to the recording element.

24. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:
preheating the recording element prior to increasing the durability characteristic of the recording element.

25. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

controlling the percentage of carrier removed from the recording element.

26. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising: adjusting the percentage of carrier removed from the recording element.

27. The method according to Claim 26, wherein adjusting the percentage of carrier removed is accomplished by a user.

28. The method according to Claim 26, wherein adjusting the percentage of carrier removed is accomplished by a controller.

29. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the controller adjusts the percentage of carrier removed based on a characteristic of the recording element.

30. The method according to Claim 20, wherein removing the predetermined percentage of carrier includes applying air flow to the recording element.

31. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier removal station includes an exhaust fan for removing the carrier.

32. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier removal station includes a cooling air flow on the media to prevent cracking and deformation of the media by the heating element.